



news release

ACTION FOR PATIENTS OF MUCKAMORE ABBEY HOSPITAL

19 January 2007

The Eastern Health and Social Services Council strongly supports the demands made by many in recent days for action for patients of Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

At its meeting yesterday, Council Members were informed by Dr Paula Kilbane, Chief Executive of the Eastern Health and Social Services Board that, although over 100 places were needed immediately in communities for patients at Muckamore at present only 12 places were funded for 2007/2008.

Mr Richard Dixon, Chief Officer of the Council said:-

“We know that this is a problem of long-standing. We know that the money and resources required to put it right are huge – counted in millions.

But we in Northern Ireland have an opportunity now to direct major investment to frontline service – the Review of Public Administration.

We have an opportunity now to start afresh with planning and service delivery – the new Health Authority and the new Trusts.

We have a blue print for the future for services for people with Mental Health and Learning Disability issues – the Bamford Review.

For what other group of people would this be allowed? This indeterminate stay in hospital long after treatment has been completed?

We call for action – sustained investment and priority to be given by the Minister now to meet the needs of these people and for the changes to health services in Northern Ireland – and the resources they place in front-line services to be had to ensure proper investment in services for people with learning disability and the permanent end of situations like this at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.”

ENDS.

Notes to Editor

“The Eastern Health and Social Services Council was set up in 1991 to represent the interests of the public in health and social services in the Eastern Board area.”

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